

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 7, 2004. Claims 1 to 43 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, the independent claims herein, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21, 25, 28, 29, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of Official Notice, Claims 3 to 5, 7, 8, 11 to 15, 22 to 24, 26, 27 and 30 to 34 were rejected under § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,396 (Salm), Claims 16 to 18, 35 to 37, 39, 40 and 42 were rejected under § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,426 (Ohkado), and Claims 19 and 38 were rejected under § 103(a) over Microsoft Word 2000 Screen Dumps in view of Ohkado and further in view of Salm. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns processing of character strings. According to the invention, a user selects one of a plurality of registered character strings displayed in a list on a display screen, whereby the selected string is stored in a computer-readable memory medium. Then, the user points a cursor at a position on the display screen at which the selected string is to be inserted, whereby the selected and stored character string is automatically inserted at the position pointed by the cursor. The selected character string is also added to image information that is to be sent to a destination. As a result, when a user wants to send image information (e.g., facsimile transmission, copied document, etc.) to a particular destination (e.g., an e-mail address), the user can set the destination for

which the image information is to be sent by merely selecting a registered character string that represents the destination, and can have the character string automatically inserted on the display screen.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 is a character processing method, comprising the steps of displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen, a user selecting, from the displayed list, based on a user instruction, one of the character strings included in the list displayed in the displaying step, storing the selected character string in a computer-readable memory medium, pointing a cursor at a position on the display screen at which the selected character string is to be inserted, and automatically inserting the selected character string stored in the memory medium at the position pointed by the cursor, wherein the inserted character string is added to image information which is to be sent to a destination.

Independent Claims 20, 41 and 43 are apparatus, computer-readable medium and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a user selecting, from a displayed list, based on a user instruction, one of a plurality of registered character strings included in the list displayed on a display screen, storing the selected character string in a computer-readable memory medium, pointing a cursor at a position on the display screen at which the selected character string is to be inserted, and automatically inserting the selected character string stored in the memory at the position pointed by the cursor.

The Microsoft Word 2000 screen dump depicts an autocorrect function which operates by automatically replacing a registered symbol or word (e.g., “~”) with a registered replacement symbol or word (e.g., “It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to”). Figure 1 merely depicts a graphic of an Autocorrect box that is used for registering autocorrections. To register an autocorrection, a user selects a TOOLS option in Word and then selects an AUTOCORRECT option from the tools menu, whereby the Autocorrect box of Figure 1 is displayed. The sole purpose of the Autocorrect box of Figure 1 is to set-up the autocorrect feature. In the set-up process, the user enters the symbol “~” in the “Replace:” box and enters “It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to” in the “With:” box. In order for the autocorrection feature to work, the user must also check the box that reads “Replace text as you type”, otherwise, no automatic corrections are made by the Word autocorrect function. Once the user has completed the foregoing set-up process, the autocorrect box of Figure 1 is closed by the Word application when the user selects the “OK” button. Thus, the box of Figure 1 merely depicts a listing of registered characters strings for the sole purpose of allowing a user to add to the list, delete from the list, or edit an element in the list. The Autocorrect box of Figure 1 simple does not allow a user to select one of the registered characters strings from the displayed box based on a user instruction so that the selected character string can be inserted at a position on a display screen pointed by a cursor.

The Office Action alleges that figure 1a of the Word screen dumps depicts a “user selecting, based on a user instruction (figure 1a), one of the character string included in the list displayed in said step of step displaying step [sic]”. However, the reference provided by the Patent Office to Applicant failed to include any figure 1a, despite all 4

pages of the reference apparently having been included. Thus, Applicant simply cannot determine what figure 1a corresponds to, or what it may depict, such that Applicant can adequately respond. However, Applicant has examined the autocorrect feature of Word 2000 and has discovered that it operates as described above (i.e., there is no ability to select one of the registered strings from the autocorrect box of Figure 1 for the purpose of inserting the selected string at a position pointed by a cursor). Should the Examiner have additional art (i.e., a figure 1a), that was not provided to Applicant, which supports the position taken in the Office Action, he is respectfully requested to provide such “new art” to Applicant with the next communication.

It is further noted that the Word 2000 autocorrect feature is wholly different from the present invention in other ways. Specifically, in the present invention, once the user has selected a registered character string from the displayed list, the selected string is stored in a computer-readable memory medium. In contrast, since there is no selection in Word 2000, there also cannot be any storage of the selected string in a memory medium.

Additionally, in the present invention, once the string has been selected and stored in the memory, the user simply points a cursor at a position on a display screen at which the selected and stored string is to be inserted, and the selected and stored string is automatically inserted thereat. In contrast, in Word 2000, the user first places the cursor at the position that an autocorrection is to take place, and then the user must type in a symbol or word that is contained in the “Replace:” column of Figure 1, whereby, if the “Replace text as you type” feature has been turned on, the word or symbol contained in the “With:” column of Figure 1 replaces the typed text. Thus, the operation of the present invention and the autocorrect feature of Word 2000 is wholly different.

In view of each of the foregoing deficiencies of the Word 2000 screen dumps, amended independent Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43 are believed to be allowable.

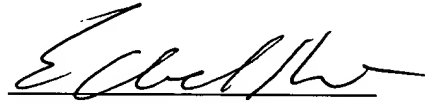
Salm and Ohkado have been studied but are not seen to add anything that, when combined with the Word 2000 screen dumps, would have resulted in the present invention. In particular, any proposed combination of the Word 2000 screen dumps, Salm and Ohkado, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a user selecting, from a displayed list, based on a user instruction, one of a plurality of registered character strings included in the list displayed on a display screen, storing the selected character string in a computer-readable memory medium, pointing a cursor at a position on the display screen at which the selected character string is to be inserted, and automatically inserting the selected character string stored in the memory at the position pointed by the cursor.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended independent Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Kmett', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 89216v1